

1 Samuel Study: How to Cooperate with God's Plan for Your Life!

Jesse Berthold / July 23, 2025

Wednesday Evening Service

HOW TO COOPERATE WITH GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE!

NOTICE... 1 Samuel 10:26-27

1 Samuel 10:26-27 “26 When Saul returned to his home at Gibeah, a group of men **whose hearts God had touched** went with him. 27 **But** there were some scoundrels who complained, “How can this man save us?” **And they scorned him and refused to bring him gifts. But Saul ignored them.**”

From the Dead Seas Scrolls:

[Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had been grievously oppressing the people of Gad and Reuben who lived east of the Jordan River. He gouged out the right eye of each of the Israelites living there, and he didn't allow anyone to come and rescue them. In fact, of all the Israelites east of the Jordan, there wasn't a single one whose right eye Nahash had not gouged out. **But** there were **7,000 men** who had **escaped** from the **Ammonites**, and they had settled in **Jabesh-gilead**.]

1 Samuel 11:1-2 (NLT) **About a month later, King Nahash of Ammon** led his army against the Israelite town of **Jabesh-gilead**. But all the citizens of Jabesh asked for peace. “Make a treaty with us, and we will be your servants,” they pleaded. 2 “All right,” Nahash said, “but only on one condition. I will gouge out the right eye of every one of you as a disgrace to all Israel!”

1 Samuel 11:3 (NLT) ““Give us **seven days** to send messengers throughout Israel!” replied the elders of Jabesh. **“If no one comes to save us, we will agree to your terms.”**”

Why Nahash agreed to give them seven days...

- 1. Israel was still disorganized and Nahash was betting that no one would come to their aid...
- 2. He was hoping that he would be able to take the city without a fight and avoid a battle...

1 Samuel 11:4–15 (NLT) 14 Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us all go to Gilgal to renew the kingdom.” 15 So they all went to Gilgal, and in a solemn ceremony before the Lord **they made Saul king**. Then they offered peace offerings to the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites were ***filled with joy***.

PRINCIPLE: It’s Dangerous to Not Do Things God’s Way!

1 Samuel 8:1–9 “1 As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel. 2 Joel and Abijah, his oldest sons, held court in Beersheba. 3 But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice. 4 Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. 5 “Look,” they told him, “you are now old, and your sons are not like you. ***Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.***” 6 Samuel was **displeased** with their **request** and **went to the Lord for guidance**. 7 “Do everything they say to you,” the Lord replied, ***“for they are rejecting me, not you. They don’t want me to be their king any longer.***” 8 Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have ***continually abandoned me and followed other gods.*** And now they are giving you the same treatment. 9 Do as they ask, but ***solemnly warn them*** about ***the way a king will reign over them.***”

1 Samuel 8:10 (NLT) “So Samuel passed on the Lord’s warning to the people who were asking him for a king.”

1 Samuel 8:19–20 (NLT) “19 But the people **refused** to **listen** to **Samuel’s warning**. ***“Even so, we still want a king,” they said.*** 20 “We want to ***be like the nations around us.*** Our king will **judge us** and **lead us** into battle.”

Deuteronomy 17:14–15 (NLT) “14 “You are about to enter the land the Lord your God is giving you. When you take it over and settle there, ***you may think***, ***‘We should select a***

king to rule over us like the other nations around us.' 15 If this happens, **be sure** to **select as king the man the Lord your God chooses**. You must appoint a fellow Israelite; he may not be a foreigner."

1 Samuel 13:7-14 (NLT) Meanwhile, Saul stayed at Gilgal, and his men were trembling with fear. 8 Saul waited there seven days for Samuel, as Samuel had instructed him earlier, but Samuel still didn't come. Saul realized that his troops were rapidly slipping away. 9 So he demanded, "Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings!" And Saul sacrificed the burnt offering himself. 10 Just as Saul was finishing with the burnt offering, Samuel arrived. Saul went out to meet and welcome him, 11 but Samuel said, "What is this you have done?" Saul replied, "I saw my men scattering from me, and you didn't arrive when you said you would, and the Philistines are at Micmash ready for battle. 12 So I said, 'The Philistines are ready to march against us at Gilgal, and I haven't even asked for the Lord's help!' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering myself before you came." 13 "How foolish!" Samuel exclaimed. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. Had you kept it, the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

Proverbs 14:12 (NLT) "There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death."

PRINCIPLE: God has a plan for each and every one of our lives!

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) For I know the **plans** I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for **good** and **not for disaster**, to give you a **future** and a **hope**."

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (NKJV) 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and **His grace** toward me was not in vain; **but I labored more abundantly than they all**, yet not I, but the grace of God *which* was with me.

PRINCIPLE: God Gives Grace to You in Order for You to Be Successful in Life!

How to Cooperate with God's Plan for Your Life:

FIRST: Don't Fight God for Control of Your Life – Surrender Your Life Completely to Him!

PRINCIPLE: We Need to Make it a Daily Practice to Surrender Our Agenda to His Agenda

SECOND: Don't Confuse Delay with Denial!

PRINCIPLE: Trust God's Timing! Hold on Through the Delay While He Moves in Ways You Can't See Yet!

[**Proverbs 3:5–6 \(NLT\)**](#) Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

PRINCIPLE: Learning to Say "Yes" to God in the Small Things Leads to Obeying God in the Bigger Things!

PRINCIPLE: Your Decisions Shape Your Destiny!